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11 May 1966
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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Special Activities, DD/S&T

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SUBJECT: [] Engines, [] INS Systems

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1. [] has just finished his staff work on the revised [] engine paper, and the document recommending procurement of new INS systems. The total dollars jointly involved in these papers is slightly in excess [] spread over three or four fiscal years.

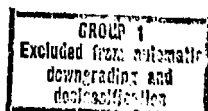
2. After a fair amount of soul searching and an exchange of views with Dr. Wheelon, I am inclined to recommend to you that we do not send these papers to Dr. Flax, at this moment in time, for the following reasons:

a. To ask for a sum this large, with what we understand is a poor prospect of getting large sums in FY 67, would of itself be quite a blow in NRO circles. As close as we may be to some sort of a Presidential verdict on BLACK SHIELD for a possible September deployment, I feel that we should wait until word is received to see if we cannot coast the engine and INS papers in on a wave of anticipated operations, so as to minimize the impact.

b. If we move before we have word on BLACK SHIELD, I think we stand a good chance of not only being turned down, but of sending ammunition to Bill Thomas, Bureau of the Budget, who will dust off his conclusions of last year and state that this simply proves that the A-12 is too expensive to continue operation for the next few years.

c. It seems likely that submission of the two papers above, at a time when we are preparing to ask for sizeable sums of money for the

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U-2R could result in some sort of a decision freeze on all three subjects.

3. Bud Wheelon feels that, tactically, it would be wise if we waited for the Presidential decision we all hope for. He agreed with me, too, that we should go in company with the papers when they are submitted, and give Dr. Flax a solid briefing in the hopes of forestalling a long period of paper massaging and agonizing on his part. I recommend you concur in these conclusions and retain the papers; ready to go, once we get the word on BLACK SHIELD.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Acting Director of Special Activities

CONCUR:

Red not concurred
16 May 05A [Signature]
Director of Special Activities

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